

FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONS 1871-
1914 27

occasions proposed measures involving war. Goblet resigned in May and Rouvier formed a Ministry without the General, who was appointed to the command of an Army Corps in the provinces. Both the President and the Ambassador in Berlin argued that his influence had been exaggerated and that the excitement had only been on the surface, but the danger was by no means at an end. The mountebank remained the darling of the crowd, and every missile aimed from beyond the Rhine served to endear him to the extreme Nationalists. When "le Gfñ6ral de Revanche" was deprived of his command in 1888 for paying visits to the capital without leave, he stood for the Chamber at a by-election in Paris as a champion of the revision of the Constitution and was elected by an overwhelming majority. Fortunately for the peace of the world he was not built in the heroic mould, and he let slip the opportunity of marching on the flysde to which his hot-blooded followers summoned him. His old sponsor Clemenceau turned against him, and on learning that an order had been signed for his arrest he fled to Brussels. The bubble had burst. He was condemned in his absence for treason, and a discreditable career was terminated by suicide on the grave of his mistress. Boulanger declares Freycinet in his Memoirs, never really desired war, but he had been playing with fire. His movement revealed the persistent vitality of the *revanche*, rendered impossible a return to the *quasi-entente* of the Waddington-Ferry-Freycinet period, and prepared the ground for the Russian alliance. The tension was once again reflected in the military changes with which both Governments occupied themselves. In France the last remains of a professional army were swept away, and every Frenchman on reaching the age of twenty became subject to three years' service. In 1888

Freycinet was appointed [Minister of War and held the office for five years, carrying through the three years* kw, the development of the reserves and the re-arming of the infantry. Germany replied by an Army Bill reorganising the Landwehr and the Land-sturm. On February 6, 1888, in commending the Army Bill to the Reichstag, Bismarck again swept the European horizon with his telescope. In 1887, he declared, the chief danger had been from France ; now it was from Russia. " Since last year one pacific President has succeeded another. We can count on President Carnot to continue the policy of M. Grövy. We have also seen a change of great importance in the Ministry. The Ministeis who had a tendency to place their personal projects